REMARKS

This amendment is filed in response to the final Office Action of April 6, 2006 in which claims 1-21 were finally rejected.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-21, it appears that the Examiner interprets the SCMCS document in such a way that by selecting one of the two operational modes (SD or SPI), an indirect selection of the bus width is done at the same time. While Applicant sees what the Examiner is saying, it is not totally correct because the currently claimed invention is deeper than that by virtue of the language of the claims which clearly indicates that the one or more indicators is itself or are themselves only indirectly indicative of which one or ones of the set of bus widths are available in the peripheral device. The claims have been amended to make it clear that the indicator used is an indirect indicator.

In other words, the prior art selection of one of the two operational modes (SD or SPI), *does not* involve any access to any registers to directly or indirectly check if such mode or modes is or are supported (both are always supported).
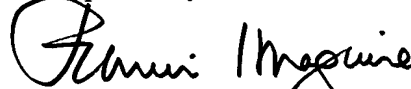
In an SD card and in the paragraph of the SD specification pointed to by the Examiner, an indirect indication method is not used, but only a direct indication method. The main difference related to SD/SPI mode (or MMC/SPI) mode selection is that all SD cards are including the SPI mode anyway. So, if there is an SD slot in one's device, it can always be assumed that the SPI mode is also supported and start utilizing it. In the case of an MMC slot in one's device, one cannot know whether the inserted card includes one bit or eight bits. So, during the initialization which happens in the one bit mode, one could check from for example the version register if the version is for example 4.x (or newer) and make a conclusion that the card supports/does not support the 4/8 bit modes also. Thus, an indirect indicator has been used according to the invention to make this conclusion about the bus widths that are available in the peripheral device.

According to the prior art SDMCS, a direct indicator is stored in a memory of the peripheral device according to a pre-determined way of directly indicating the width or widths (i.e., according to the SDMCS). According to the invention, instead of accessing the memory to detect the bus width or widths available for use in the peripheral device from the direct indicator, one or more indirect indicators are formed in the peripheral device and used.

Amendments have been made to the independent claims to go back to some of the former claim language and some of the dependent claims have also been amended to remove means plus function language and to make other minor changes. Some new claims 22-25 have been added to utilize means plus function language but otherwise resemble the earlier claims.

The objections and rejections of the Office Action of April 6, 2006, having been obviated by amendment or shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is earnestly solicited and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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